

[Mrs. A. E. White]

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[?] Tales - (Factual)

Marjorie Key

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Lamb county

District 17

Bibliography

Mrs. A. E. White, Early Settler,

Littlefield, Texas. [30?]

Blizzard of 1918 240

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Mr. and Mrs. A. E. White, who lived on a farm two miles east of Littlefield, were entertaining friends on a night in January, [?] 1918 . The four played "500" until about one o'clock in the morning and when their guests decided to leave, Mr and Mrs White walked to the gate with them. They commented on the beauty of the night. Only a few fluffy, white clouds would could be seen in the sky and the moon was shining brightly.

On returning to the house the family retured returned only to be awakened a about four o'clock in the morning by the intense cold and the lowing of the cattle. To their surprise, they found snow all over the house, even the bed was were completely covered. The

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house was built of ship-lap and well papered on the inside, but was of little protection against the driving wind and snow. Mr. and Mrs White and children went to work to get the snow out of the house and in the days that followed, bushel baskets were used to carry it out. They took broom brooms to the barns and used them to sweep off the cattle. Rain had evidently fallen early in the night for the cattle were frozen on the side that faced the wind.

About seven 7 o'clock the next morning, the storm abated. The school truck came by for the children and two of the boys went, the other two remaining at home with their parents. The truck had been gone only a short time when the snow began to fall again. A few hours later the thermometer read ten 10 degrees below zero. Mrs. White moved the bed and couch close to the stove and the family went to bed to keep warm. One of the boys made his bed in a large wicker chair. They stoked the stove with coal and tried to keep the house as warm as possible. C12 - 2/11/41 - Texas 2 The electricity was so great that when one of the boys in a playful mood touched the stove with one hand and his mothers forehead with the other, it almost pulled the skin off.

Mrs. White became very worried about her two children who had left that morning for school. She wanted to go in search of them but her husband convinced her that she couldnt could not get any / place in the storm. In desperation she finally had about decided to saddle the horse and go after them when word came that Mrs. T. F. Wright had taken the children to her home in town . Mrs. White appreciated this gesture because they were strangers in this western country, having moved out from Wisconsin the year before , 1917. 1937.

Before the storm that lasted three days was over, many cattle froze to death and were found heaped in fence corners. One fine bull that Mr. White had just bought at the price of five hundred dollars for \$500.00 had followed the drifting cattle and was found in one of the large piles of dead cattle. As late as [?] evidences of the blizzard [?] could be seen. Heaps of [?] bones could be found on the ranchlands. One man was found frozen to deaht death near the spot where the town of Shallowater now stands. The man had called at the

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White farm the afternoon before the storm began. He had on plenty of clothes but they were in a very rugged condition. Mrs. White invited the man to come in but he told her that he would like to have a little coffee and a can to make it in. Mrs. White told him that she would be glad to make the coffee for him but he refused. She therefore furnished an empty tomatoe tomato can to make the coffee in, and half a loaf of white bread. During the war people were allowed only a certain amount of white flour and were forced to substitute cornbread. The man accepted the coffee and bread but declined to come into the house and warm. A / short time later his camp fire could be seen. That night the blizzard came and the next day the same man was found frozen to death. 3 Mrs White said that she felt very bad about the man's death. Although she had done her best to get the man to come into the house and accept food and warmth, [and?] he steadfastly refused, Mrs. White said that / Blizzard was really something to live through and all the years they have lived in and around Littlefield, they have never experienced such cold weather as they did then.